

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Claims 99, 100, 102, 103, and 104 are currently under consideration.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 99 was amended to read as follows:

A method of diagnosing lung, pancreatic, or esophageal cancer, comprising detecting expression of a tumor-associated antigen in a biological sample, wherein the tumor-associated antigen is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 16; and

(ii) the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 7,

wherein detection of the tumor-associated antigen in a biological sample isolated from a patient in an amount greater than an amount of the tumor-associated antigen in a normal biological sample indicates the presence of lung, pancreatic, or esophageal cancer.

4. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Troy A. Groetken on December 19, 2008.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Pancreatic and esophageal cancer were rejoined for allowance in view of the presence of the polypeptide of

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SEQ ID NO: 16, CLDN 18.2, in these cancers and not normal pancreas and esophagus as described in Sahin et al. (Clinical Cancer Res., December 2008, 14:7624-7634), see Tables 1 and 2.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter J. Reddig whose telephone number is (571) 272-9031. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Helms can be reached on (571) 272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Peter J Reddig/

Examiner, Art Unit 1642

/Karen A Canella/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1643